

CLAIMS:

1. A latching mechanism arranged to receive a locking member of a lock, the mechanism comprising a means for blocking movement of the locking member in
5 a first direction and permitting movement of the locking member in the first direction by movement in a direction transverse to the first direction and a pawl engagable with the blocking means, the pawl being electrically controllable in order to selectively control operation of the blocking means.
- 10 2. A latching mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism further comprises an electrical actuator which is in contact with an index member to electrically control the pawl, the index member and the pawl member each being provided with a plurality of protrusions.
- 15 3. A latching mechanism according to claim 1 wherein the actuator is a piezo electric actuator.
4. A latching mechanism according to claim 1 or 2, wherein movement of the actuator causes alignment between protrusions of the pawl and protrusions of the
20 index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in a locked condition.
5. A latching mechanism according to claim 1 or 2, wherein movement of the actuator causes misalignment of the protrusions of the pawl and the protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in an unlocked
25 condition.